



## The Peachbasket Award

National citations will be presented to KU alumni on Sept. 28

*James Naismith*

## The Iron Duke Award

Adolph Rupp will be the recipient of more than the Dr. James A. Naismith Peachbasket Award on Sept. 28. He also will receive the Iron Duke Award, named in honor of former coaching great from Oklahoma State, "Hank" Iba.

The Peachbasket Award Committee decided to institute an award to honor the Olympic basketball coach each Olympiad. Dean Smith, d'53, this year's Olympic coach, was to have been the first recipient of the award. On further investigation, the committee decided to award the Iron Duke to the seven coaches of Olympic basketball teams since 1936, when the first Olympic basketball game was played.

Six of the seven recipients of the first-time award are from Kansas or Missouri, and three of the coaches, Allen, Rupp and Smith, are University of Kansas alumni.

Those who will accept the first Iron Duke Award are:

Gene Johnson, who originally

coached the McPherson Oilers, is from Emporia and McPherson. He coached the 1936 Olympic team that shared honors with the Universal Pictures.

Adolph Rupp, c'23, coached the 1948 team. He was born in Halstead.

Milton Allen, c'36, l'42, will represent his father, Phog Allen, '09, who lived in Lawrence and coached at Kansas.

Gerald Tucker, Olympic coach of 1956, was born in Winfield.

Pete Newell, 1960 Olympic coach, is now the general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hank Iba was born in Easton, Missouri, just east of the Kansas border. He coached in 1964, 1968 and 1972.

Dean Smith, d'53, was born in Emporia.

Kansas may be best known for the sunflower. But it is becoming almost as famous for its contributions to the game of basketball.

*'Baker University wanted me to coach basketball. I said to Dr. Naismith, 'I believe I'll go on down there and coach basketball.' He said, 'You can't coach basketball, you just play it.' So he wrote an autograph for me, 'From the father of basketball to the father of basketball coaching.'*

—Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, '09  
February 1972

Every serious discussion of basketball invariably turns to the University of Kansas and two of the most famous personalities associated with the game: Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of the game who spent 41 years of his life at KU, and Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, who built the basketball empire here.

It isn't surprising, then, that a distinguished national award has been instituted to honor the inventor of basketball and that among the recipients of the young award is Phog Allen.

The Dr. James A. Naismith Peachbasket Award, first presented in 1974 to the living legend of UCLA, John Wooden, was awarded in 1975 to Henry P. "Hank" Iba, of Oklahoma State, and posthumously to Phog Allen.

This year's award goes to Adolph F. Rupp, Kentucky's affable wizard of hardwood magic, a 1923 graduate of the University of Kansas. Rupp, known as "the man in the brown suit," still holds the distinction of being the nation's winningest basketball coach. In 40 years of coaching, Rupp won 837 games and lost 176, for a 82.2 percentage. He retired from coaching in 1972.

The Peachbasket Award was originated by the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Dr. Naismith was the KU chapter's counselor. The award is made annually and any professional or amateur player or coach is eligible, as well as any sportswriter or sportscaster.

This year's award ceremonies are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Alameda Plaza in Kansas City. Hank Iba will present the award to Coach Rupp. Dr. Naismith's son,

James S. Naismith, will present an original etching autographed by his father, to Bob Broeg, sports editor of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, who will accept it on behalf of the Peachbasket Award Committee.

Naismith's achievements were legion. He invented the game of basketball at the International Y.M.C.A. Training School in Springfield, Mass., in 1891, by tacking up peach baskets at either end of an indoor court, providing a soccer ball to be shot into the baskets and a step ladder for retrieving it. Not until 1898 were iron rims with nets attached put into use.

He also invented a forerunner of the modern football helmet, a leather cap, the main purpose of which was to prevent a player's ears from being torn off.

At the least of Dr. Naismith's accomplishments was his versatility. He possessed three earned and two honorary degrees in three different fields—religion, medicine and physical education. He was administrator, professor, counselor, inventor, athlete, physician and a Presbyterian minister. As might be expected, he received numerous honors and is a member of several state halls of fame and the Charter member of National Basketball Hall of Fame.

Dr. Naismith probably wouldn't much care for all the fuss and hubbub, the praise and laudits that always accompany any discussion of him. He once talked about his game in this fashion: "Let us be able to lose gracefully and to win courteously; to accept criticism as well as praise, and last of all to appreciate the attitude of the other fellow at all times."

Those who have received the Dr. James A. Naismith Peachbasket Award know the meaning of his words. They have upheld the ideals that Dr. Naismith thought important—the physical development of the nation's youth, and a lifelong effort to instill in their athletes a sense of value, a concern for humanity and for self-discipline.

Naismith. Wooden. Iba. Allen. Rupp. All are sports legends of the 20th Century.